

Middlesex.

JANUARY QUARTER SESSIONS, 1850.

THE
THIRTEENTH REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF VISITORS
OF THE
Additional Pauper Lunatic Asylum,
AND
RESOLUTIONS OF THE COURT.

LONDON :
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1850.

List
OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE
ADDITIONAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,

Appointed January Quarter Session, 1849.

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Middlesex.

TO HER MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
FOR THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX IN GENERAL QUARTER
SESSION ASSEMBLED.

THE THIRTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS OF THE COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM AT COL- NEY HATCH.

In presenting their final Report for the year 1849, your Committee have great satisfaction in being enabled to state that their expectations have been fully realized in the rapid progress of the Works at Colney Hatch; and from present appearances they have no reason to doubt that the period for opening the Asylum, when the expenditure of the various parishes in the County will be relieved of one of the heaviest burdens, viz.—the increased amount paid for their thousand Lunatics and Idiots now in private establishments,—will not be protracted beyond the time originally contemplated when the contract for its erection received the sanction of the Court.

The whole of the immense pile of building which has been rising into existence during the past year is now covered in. There is at the present time upwards of £8,000 worth of materials on the premises ready to be disposed of in the building, and there remains not more than about £20,000 worth of labour required to complete the contract.

The subject of Warming and Ventilating this gigantic establishment has necessarily occupied the anxious attention of your Committee. This must undoubtedly ever be a feature of great importance in all Lunatic Asylums, partaking so largely as they do of the nature of Hospitals for the Sick. The state of modern Science on this subject has added to the difficulty of selection by the variety of means pressed upon public attention, each having its ardent admirers and zealous advocates. Your Committee have passed several in review before them and called to their aid such means as were within their power, to enable them to form a correct judgment, and it is with much satisfaction they report, that whilst they have selected the system which has appeared to them, after the most careful investigation to have received the largest amount of public patronage, it is at the same time the cheapest which has been adopted in any modern public building of a similar kind, to the amount of nearly twenty per cent., reference being had to the extent of area required to be acted upon.

Under this impression, your Committee have since their last Report entered into further Contracts, subject to the approval of the Court; one with Mr. H. C. Price for warming and ventilating the Chapel, for the sum of £190, and the other with Mr. George Myers for the bricklayers' work connected therewith, for the sum of £97, both of which contracts they recommend the Court to approve.

The industrial labour of the County Prisons and of the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, has been most usefully called into action, since the period when the Court granted the sum of £3,000 for the purpose, in preparing portions of the stock of clothing and bed-linen which will be required as soon as the

building shall be ready for the reception of Patients, thus turning to profitable account, for a time at least, that labour—so far as regards the County Prisons—which the Justices of Middlesex have so long had to lament has hitherto been made available to so small an extent.

The Court will receive with unmixed satisfaction, the announcement that an abundant supply of pure water has resulted from the sinking of the well (a section of which is annexed to this Report) at the depth of 475 feet to the bottom of the boring, being 141 feet through the chalk, and which has been accomplished, including the steining and the pumps required for raising the water to the surface, at a cost of £1,273.

The service of this water and its distribution over the vast extent of premises requiring it in every department (the Commissioners in Lunacy requiring the supply to be 50,000 gallons per diem) will necessarily involve a large expenditure, as the Court is aware, from the Contracts for that work which it has already sanctioned, and which Contracts are now before the Commissioners in Lunacy for their approval in order to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State.

In conclusion, your Committee beg leave to draw the attention of the Court to the plan they have adopted for rendering the Building fire-proof, a condition insisted upon by the Commissioners in Lunacy, unless certain fire-proof divisions were introduced into the building which would have seriously interfered with the internal arrangements, and have been far less effectual for the purpose. Your Committee took the greatest pains to inform themselves on this subject before they determined on the plan to be pursued ;

and it is most satisfactory for your Committee to be enabled to state that the system finally sanctioned by them has afforded an opportunity to the Architect of introducing various improvements in the building which will not in any way increase its cost, while from the designs of the architect, the ingenious contractor, availing himself of the opportunity which has been afforded of making the Bricks on the premises, and without adding a single charge for extras under his Contract for its execution, has constructed an ornamented ceiling for the extensive corridors and galleries which is admitted to be of superior strength, and is at the same time an object of great beauty, which cannot fail to attract attention from all who visit the Asylum.

Your Committee in presenting this extended Report have been anxious to call the attention of the Court to all the main features of their proceedings during the past year, hoping it will satisfy the Court that the important interests of the County committed to their charge have in no instance been neglected by them, and in the firm belief that a continuance of such exertions will realize the expectation which has been held out of the opening of the Asylum before the end of the present year.

All which is submitted, &c.

BENJAMIN ROTCH,
Chairman.

*Sessions House,
16th January, 1850.*

ON THE PRECEDING REPORT

THE FOLLOWING

Resolutions

Were adopted by the Court, on the 17th January, 1850.

Resolved—1. “ That the said Report be received.”

Resolved—2. “ That the Contracts in the said Report mentioned, with Mr. H. C. Price, for warming and ventilating the Chapel, and with Mr. George Myers for the Bricklayer’s work connected therewith, be approved by the Court.”

Resolved—3. “ That the Report be printed, and circulated in the usual manner, and that so much thereof as relates to matters not referred by the preceding Resolutions be taken into consideration on the next County-day.”

